(a) whether some new tourists spots are being developed in the country particularly in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Development of new tourist spots is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Department of Tourism extends some financial assistance for projects and schemes aimed at augmentation of tourism infrastructure at places suggested by State Governments. As regards Maharashtra, the State Government have proposed for Central financial assistance for tourist lodges at Lattur and Sindkhed Raja, tourist reception centre at Pune, wayside amenities at 2 locations, tourist complex at Karla (Phase-II), passenger oriented wayside amenity at Manor, purchase of adventure and sports equipment, publicity and upgradation of facilities during 1991-92.

Bridge at Vapi

2964. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had decided to construct an overbridge on level crossing near Vapi station a few years ago;

(b) if so, the reasons for not starting the construction work; and

(c) when this project will be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government has not yet furnished an acceptable detailed estimated for the bridge approaches to be executed by them.

(c) The work can be taken up for execution only after the estimate is sanctioned.

[*Translation*]

Facilities to Railway Employees

2965. SHRI KALKA DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme to issue two annual passes to class IV railway employees after their retirement and to constitute a separate wage board for railways employees is being formulated; and

(b) if so, the time by which it will be implemented and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Any liberalisation in existing Scheme of Grant of Passes to Retired Group 'D' Railway employees will have wide repercussions and hence it is difficult to grant them more facilities.

As regards Constitution of a separate Wage Board for Railway employees, Railway employees form part of Central Government employees and are governed by the general Government policy.

[*English*]

New Railway Zone for Karnataka

2966. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the South West Railway Employees Congress has demanded the *creation of a new railway zone for Karnataka*; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir. However, a representation in this regard from the South Central Railway Employees' Congress has been received.

(b) This matter is under consideration of the Government.

Railway Projects in Karnataka

2967. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several railway projects in Karnataka are pending despite feasibility surveys conducted by the Government; and

(b) if so, the full details thereof and the details of the projects of Karnataka which are likely to be completed during the next few years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The following projects in Karnataka will be completed during next few years.

(i) Bangalore—Mysore gauge conversion.

(ii) Chitradurg—Rayadurg New MG line.

(iii) Part of Konkan Railway in Karnataka from Mangalore side.

New Oil and Gas Policy

2968. *SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:*
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry has called for a new oil and gas policy in tune with internationalisation of the economy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). Newspaper reports to this effect have come to Government's notice. The Government of India has decided to invite the Fourth Round of bids from international and Indian companies for intensifying exploration for oil and gas in sedimentary basins in India.

[*Translation*]

Extension of Indore Terminal Platform

2969. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the construction work of the proposed railway terminal in Indore is likely to be completed;

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase the length of the existing platform or to construct a new platform there; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?